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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-12 and 14-46 are now pending in the application. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner, Ms. Cheryl Juska, for the courtesies extended to Applicant's attorney, Mr. Garrett Donley, during the telephonic interview conducted on August 29, 2003, and during the subsequent telephone conference of September 9, 2003. In accordance with the discussions with the Examiner, Applicant is adding new independent Claims 25 and 35 through this Amendment. These claims are alternate forms of pending independent claims 1 and 12 for the Examiner's consideration. Also, a set of claims dependent upon new Claims 25 and 35, mirroring the previously pending dependent claims, have been introduced.

In addition, Applicant's counsel noticed that amendments were needed to make pending Claims 3-6 dependent upon Claim 1, in light of the previous cancellation of Claim 2. Those amendments have now been made in this submission. Also, Applicant's counsel noticed that the amendments previously made to pending Claim 6 in Applicant's prior (second) amendment dated March 4, 2002 were not fully reproduced in the unmarked listing of claims forming part of that submission. The amendments were, however, shown on the marked-up version of claims accompanying that Amendment, and the correct current language of that claim is shown in the present submission.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-8, 12, 14-19, 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,505,960 issued to Leffingwell in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,830,798 issued to Maeda, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,931,477 issued to Shiiki et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,035,275 issued to Yamaguchi. Claims 9, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the cited Leffingwell, Maeda, Shiiki et al. and Yamaguchi references and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,373,667 issued to Lemieux. Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the

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cited Leffingwell, Maeda, Shiiki et al. and Yamaguchi references and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,820,475 issued to Luna.

As stated during the telephonic interview for this application, Applicant respectfully submits that there would be no motivation to combine the teachings of the references cited, in order to suggest the invention as now claimed. Specifically, Applicant notes that only the Leffingwell reference deals with an artificial turf, and there is no suggestion in the Maeda, Shiiki et al. or Yamaguchi references to apply the subject matter of those references (dealing with polypropylene resins, foamed articles and shock absorption of foamed packaging materials) to an artificial turf. There is also no suggestion from the cited Luna reference that would teach the subject matter of the present Claim 11, and the cited Lemieux patent (the present inventor's prior patent) did not disclose the present features. Applicant also directs the Examiner's attention to the discussion set forth in the remarks section of Applicant's prior (second) amendment (at page 6, last paragraph), submitted on January 30, 2003, that there is no suggestion or motivation in the Maeda reference that the teachings of shock absorbance properties for packaging materials could be combined with the much-different environment of an artificial turf underpad as shown in Leffingwell.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the present claims and consider the proposed new claims. Should the Examiner have any questions, or wish to discuss this application further, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney directly at (248) 641-1239.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 9, 2003

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